25th November 1948] [Sri Kala Venkata Rao]

useful to the public; it will be for a public purpose, for the purpose of any library or educational institution or for the construction, extension or improvement of any building or other structure in any village for the common use of its inhabitants or for any godown for any society registered or deemed to be registered under the Madras Co-operative Societies Act, 1932, or any dwelling house for the poor or any well, irrigation tank, irrigation or drainage channel or any road. These are all public purposes for which the land may be required. I, therefore, request the House to pass the Bill."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The question is—

' *that the Bill further to amend the Land Acquisition Act,* 1894, *in its application to the Province of Madras be taken into consideration at once.*' "

The motion was carried.

*Clause 2.*

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The question is—

' *that clause 2 do stand part of the Bill*'.

There are no amendments."

Clause 2 was carried.

*Clause 1.*

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The question is—

' *that clause 1 do stand part of the Bill.*' "

Clause 1 was carried.

*Preamble.*

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The question is—

' *that the preamble do stand part of the Bill*'."

The preamble was carried.

THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO :—" I now move—

' *that the Bill be passed into law*'."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The question is—

' *that the Bill further to amend the Land Acquisition Act,* 1894, *in its application to the Province of Madras be passed into law*'."

The motion was carried and the Bill was passed into law.

**(4) THE MADRAS PROHIBITION (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL, 1948 (L.A. BILL No. 27 OF 1948).**

* THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM :—" Sir, I move— 12-15 p.m.

' *that the Madras Prohibition (Second Amendment) Bill,* 1948 *(L.A. Bill No.* 27 *of* 1948), *as passed by the Madras Legislative Assembly, be taken into consideration at once.*'

" Sir, this is purely a permissive Bill. Since total Prohibition has been introduced in the Presidency, the old Madras Abkari Act

[Dr. S. Gurubatham] [25th November 1948

goes out of force. There are moreover a few omissions in the original Act, which we would like to rectify. The Madras Prohibition Act empowers the Provincial Government to levy an excise duty similar to that levied on local intoxicating drugs under the Madras Abkari Act. Clause 1 is a formal one. Clause 2 contains the main provision of the Bill. The Madras Prohibition Act empowers the Provincial Government to exempt any specific liquor or intoxicating drugs from the provisions of the Act, and also to issue a licence for the manufacture, import, sales, etc., of any liquor or drug required for bona fide medicinal, scientific, industrial or like purposes. Under the above provision of the Act, the Government have exempted medicinal preparations containing spirit, subject to certain conditions. Licences have also been issued for the manufacture of rectified or methylated spirit, etc. In addition under section 20 of the Prohibition Act, permits are issued to Europeans above 21 years of age, for the consumption of foreign liquor or Indian-made foreign spirits; liquor imported from overseas will be liable only to a customs duty, and it is necessary to make a specific provision to levy a duty on liquor and drugs manufactured in this Province or imported from other Provinces. The Madras Abkari Act contained a provision for the levy of an excise duty or a counterveiling duty on all excisable articles. This Act, however, ceases to be in force in the ordinary areas of this Province, with effect from the date on which Prohibition was introduced. We, therefore, considered it necessary to introduce a similar provision in the Madras Prohibition Act. And clause 2 provides for this. Clause 3 is intended to empower the Government to prescribe the rates at which the duty may be levied. The whole measure is, as I already stated, a simple one. And I, therefore, request the House, through you, Sir, to accept my motion.

"Before I resume my seat, I would like to mention in this connexion, that this Bill has nothing to do with the wine used for religious purposes. The Bill before us is purely a permissive Bill, which empowers the Government to levy a duty on rectified spirit, methylated spirit and things like that, especially methylated spirit which is now being used for industrial purposes, and medicinal preparations.

"I move Sir—

'*that the Bill be taken into consideration*'."

The motion was put and carried.

Clauses 2, 3, 1 and the Preamble were put and carried.

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM :—" Sir, I move—

'*that the Bill be passed into law*'."

The motion was put and carried, and the Bill was passed into law.